

Bulletin No. 4 of 1939.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS. YEAR 1938.

Preliminary Report of the Acting Government Statist on Vital Statistics for the year 1938. The particulars for 1938 are subject to slight revision when finally checked. 1937 particulars are given in parentheses. A detailed analysis of the Statistics will be given when the final summary is published in the Statistical Register.

I. POPULATION. 592,292 (588,678).

The population of the State on 30th June 1938 was 592,292 (588,678), increase 3,614.

Natural Increase Year 1938 - 3,871 (3,738) increase 133.

Migration - Loss for 6 months to 30th June 1938 - 984 (2,563).

The information for the last six months is not yet available.

II. MARRIAGES. 5,489 (5,340).

NUMBER CELEBRATED. 5,489 (5,340) increase 149 on the record of the previous year; making an increase of 2,420 during the last 7 years. The rate per 1,000 of mean population was 9.26 (9.06), being the highest rate since 1913, except for 1920 which was abnormal - due to the marriages of returned soldiers.

OFFICIATING MINISTERS &C. - See Bulletin No. 5.

III. BIRTHS. 9,410 (8,985).

The number of Births registered had fallen from 11,492 in 1927 to 8,270 in 1935. There has been an increase each year since 1935, the total for 1938 being 9,410 (8,985), an increase of 425 on 1937 and of 1,140 on 1935, but still about 2,200 below the annual average of the years 1910-29, and the crude birth rate 15.88 (15.25) is the lowest except for the seven previous years.

SEXES. Males 4,863 (4,611), Females 4,547 (4,374) representing 106.95 (105.42) males to every 100 females.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS. 268 (312), the rate being equivalent to 2.85 (3.47) per 100 births, the lowest rate since 1890.

LEGITIMATIONS 12 (28). ADOPTIONS 102 (122).

PLURAL BIRTHS. Twins 78 (81) sets, Triplets 2 (2).

IV. DEATHS. 5,539 (5,247).

During the year 5,539 (5,247) deaths were registered, an increase of 292 on the previous year. Rates per 1,000 of the mean population were 9.35 (8.91). Commencing with 1922 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933, when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. The rates for the last 5 years have been higher again, though irregular.

SEXES. Males 2,917 (2,823), Females 2,622 (2,424).

V. INFANTILE DEATHS. 287 (297).

There was a decrease of 10 in the number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, the numbers being 287 (297). The infantile death rate of 30.50 (33.05) is believed to be the lowest for any country in the world, the previous lowest being 30.96 for New Zealand in 1936, in which year South Australia was very close with 31.09. The rate in this State is only about half the rate 20 years ago, and one third of the rate around 1900.

V. INFANTILE DEATHS (Continued).

Under 1 week the deaths were 155 (171), 1 week and under 1 month 44 (42), 1-5 months 55 (42), 6-11 months 33 (42).

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH - Premature birth 84 (111); congenital malformations 34 (35); injury at birth 30 (28); congenital debility 18 (16); other disease of Infancy 27 (22); diarrhoea & enteritis 18 (15); pneumonia 37 (25); whooping cough 1 (4).

The important subject of infantile mortality allied with the cognate subject of maternal mortality will be examined in more detail when the final summary is published.

VI. CAUSES OF DEATH.

Principal causes of death and rates per 10,000 of mean population.

Disease	PERSONS		RATES	
	1938	1937	1938	1937
Diseases of the heart	1,201	1,041	20.27	17.67
Cancer & other malignant tumors	769	725	12.98	12.31
Tuberculosis (all forms)	218	256	3.68	4.35
Cerebral haemorrhage, softening, &c.	568	492	9.59	8.35
Pneumonia; Lobar-, Broncho-, &c.	326	275	5.50	4.67
Bronchitis (all forms)	74	57	1.25	.97
Other diseases of resp. system	121	122	2.04	2.07
Nephritis-Acute and chronic	258	276	4.36	4.69
Diabetes mellitus	140	116	2.36	1.97
Puerperal causes	44	46	.74	.78
Congen. debility, malformations, &c.	208	223	3.51	3.79
Senility	289	285	4.88	4.84
Suicides	72	56	1.22	.95
Violent deaths (ex. suicides)	295	318	4.98	5.40
Diarrhoea and enteritis	37	48	.62	.81
Whooping Cough	1	5	.02	.08
Diphtheria and croup	26	27	.44	.46
Influenza	13	9	.22	.15
Typhoid Fever	1	4	.02	.07
Appendicitis	39	52	.66	.88
Hernia, intestinal obstruction	47	61	.79	1.03
Cirrhosis of liver	22	22	.37	.37
Tetanus	2	7	.03	.12
All Other	768	724	12.96	12.29
TOTAL	5,539	5,247	93.49	89.07

Increases are noted for Diseases of the Heart 1,201 (1,041), Cancer 769 (725) - see Remarks next page -, Cerebral Haemorrhage &c. 568 (492), Pneumonia 326 (275), Diabetes 140 (116), Leucaemia and Aleucaemia 25 (20), Acute Poliomyelitis 20 (3).

Decreases are noted for Tuberculosis 218 (256), Nephritis 258 (276), Diarrhoea and Enteritis 37 (48), Appendicitis 39 (52), Tetanus 2 (7),

VII. EXTERNAL VIOLENCE.

There were 20 less accidental &c. deaths, 16 more suicides and 3 less homicides in 1938 than in 1937. Total accidental &c. deaths were 290 (310), chief causes being :- Falls 80 (62), automobiles 99 (103), burns 15 (18), drowning 22 (40), railways and tramways 18 (21), other transport 17 (16), firearms 7 (6).

VIII. TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER, HEART DISEASES AND NEPHRITIS.

Except for irregular movements since 1930, the rate per 10,000 of mean population for tuberculosis has been showing a heavy continuous fall, the rate for 1938 being less than half of the rate 20 years ago. Cancer had been showing a fairly continuous rise, but during the last few years the rate has been fluctuating, that for 1938 showing an increase on 1937. The increase in latter years is not so serious as it would appear from the crude death rate, for most cancer deaths are of older persons, and these now constitute a much larger proportion of the population.

Period	Tuberculosis		Cancer		Heart		Nephritis	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	382	7.55	476	9.41	541	10.69	217	4.29
1925-29	364	6.49	555	9.90	590	10.53	257	4.59
1930-34	297	5.14	653	11.29	806	13.94	267	4.62
Year								
1934	281	4.82	651	11.16	956	16.38	260	4.46
1935	260	4.44	610	10.43	1,029	17.59	274	4.68
1936	235	4.00	740	12.60	1,101	18.74	252	4.29
1937	256	4.35	725	12.31	1,041	17.67	276	4.69
1938	218	3.68	769	12.98	1,201	20.27	258	4.36

IX. DEATHS - AGES.

During 1938, 40 (26) persons died 95 years of age and over - males 17, females 23. Two males and 6 females were over 100 years of age, being 2 - 100, 3 - 101, 1 - 102, 1 - 104 and 1 - 107.

X. SUMMARY RETURN.

The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population, and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		DEATHS.			
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
Year								
1934	8,459	14.50	4,310	7.39	5,403	9.26	301	35.58
1935	8,270	14.14	4,845	8.28	5,163	8.83	289	34.95
1936	8,911	15.17	5,182	8.82	5,464	9.30	277	31.09
1937	8,985	15.25	5,340	9.06	5,247	8.91	297	33.05
1938	9,410	15.88	5,489	9.26	5,539	9.35	287	30.50

XI. INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED TO BOARD OF HEALTH.

Increases are noted for Poliomyelitis Anterior Acuta 284 (85), Measles 85 (72), Scarlet Fever 500 (214), Diphtheria 779 (774), Typhoid Fever 33 (27).

Decreases are recorded for Pulmonary Tuberculosis 308 (331), Whooping Cough 180 (684), Bacillary Dysentery 3 (19), Erysipelas 81 (110), Influenza 42 (143), Puerperal Fever 55 (58).

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